

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

SAJ-01 SAM-01 SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 EB-07 COME-00 OES-03

OIC-02 L-02 H-01 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

RSC-01 /070 W

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O P 101610Z JAN 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9933

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR POIP SZ VS VN WMO

SUBJECT: PROPOSED PRG OBSERVER STATUS AT 7TH WMO CONGRESS

REFS: A) STATE 004758; B) GENEVA 001; C) SAIGON 096; D) GENEVA 0029

1. DURING MY CALL ON WMO SEC GEN DAVIES MORNING JAN 10 TO PRESENT FORMAL WRITTEN PROTEST OVER PRG ITEM ON POSTAL BALLOT (REF A), HE EXPRESSED REGRET THAT THIS MATTER THREATENED TO CLOUD NORMALLY EXCELLENT US-WMO RELATIONS, RECITED HOW WMO HAD FOLLOWED "NORMAL" PROCEDURES IN SUCH MATTER AND PROMISED AN EARLY REPLY TO OUR DEMARCHE, WHICH HE SAID WOULD, AS IS CUSTOMARY, BE CIRCULATED TO ALL MEMBER STATES AFTER THE VOTING RESULTS WERE IN.

2. DAVIES EXPLAINED THAT ROLE OF SECRETARIAT WAS THAT OF "POSTMAN," PASSING ON NOMINATIONS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS, "PRECISELY AS RECEIVED" FOR ACTION BY MEMBER STATES. THE SECRETARIAT, HE ADDED, DOES NOT CONSIDER ITSELF TO BE THE COMPETENT BODY TO DECIDE ON
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WHAT IS THE AUTHENTIC FORM OF WORDS DESCRIBING A "COUNTRY,"

WHETHER THE "COUNTRY" IS A COUNTRY OR WHETHER IT SHOULD BE INVITED.

3. THE ONLY CHECK WHICH THE SECRETARIAT APPLIES, ACCORDING TO SECGEN, IS WHETHER THE "COUNTRY" HAS A METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE. HE ADMITTED SOME DIFFICULTY IN CHECKING BECAUSE WMO HAD NO ADDRESS FOR PRG, AND WOULD NOT TAKE ASSURANCE OF ANY OF (UNAMED) THREE SPONSORING STATES THAT PRG HAD METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE. FINALLY, HE WAS GIVEN A PARIS ADDRESS FOR PRG TO WHICH HE WROTE AND FROM WHICH HE RECEIVED AN ANSWER THAT THEY DID HAVE SUCH A SERVICE. IN RESPONSE TO MY INQUIRY, HE SAID IT WAS NOT CUSTOMARY FOR WMO TO LOOK BEHIND SUCH A STATEMENT.

4. DRAWING ON REF A, I REITERATED THAT BY HAVING CIRCULATED THE NAME OF THE PRG, THE WMO HAD ENHANCED ITS INTERNATIONAL STATUS IN A FASHION UNWARRANTED BY THE FACTS AND UNAUTHORIZED BY THE GENERAL REGULATIONS OR THE WMO CONVENTION. I OBSERVED THAT, BASED ON MY EXPERIENCE AT GENEVA, ANYTHING LESS THAN A METICULOUS ADHERENCE TO ALL APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS BY ANY SPECIALIZED AGENCY OF THE UN WAS DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN AWAY AND COULD, IF UNSATISFACTORILY EXPLAINED, EVENTUALLY LEAD TO A LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE ABILITY OF THE ORGANIZATION TO DO THE JOB IT WAS SET UP TO DO.

5. THE SECGEN INTIMATED IT WAS NOT AT ALL CERTAIN THAT THE PRG COULD MUSTER THE NECESSARY TWO-THIRDS VOTE TO BE ADMITTED AS OBSERVER. THEN, DRAWING ATTENTION TO THE REGULATION (NO.17) PERMITTING THE PRESIDENT (NOW AN EGYPTIAN, FATHY TAHA) TO INVITE "ANY EXPERT OR ANY REPRESENTATIVE OF AN ORGANIZATION TO PARTICIPANT AS OBSERVER", HE SAID THAT PRG ATTENDANCE COULD BE ACHIEVED BY SIMPLE DECISION OF THE PRESIDENT. THE ONLY CRITERION WAS THAT THE PRESIDENT DEEM THE INDIVIDUAL THUS QUALIFIED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS.

6. COMMENT: I DO NOT HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT DAVIES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS INCLINED, DESPITE HIS FREQUENT PROTESTIONS OF WARM FRIENDSHIP FOR THE U.S., TO RESPOND FAVORABLY TO OUR DEMARCHE. AS ONE POSSIBLE EXPLANATION OF HIS APPARENT ATTITUDE, I RECALL THAT ON SEVERAL SOCIAL OCCASIONS HE HAS TOLD ME HOW IMPRESSED HE WAS WITH THE RECEPTION HE HAS RECEIVED FROM THE CHINESE AND HOW GREAT THEIR INTEREST SEEMED TO BE IN WMO ACTIVITIES.

7. WE SHALL CONTINUE TO FOLLOW UP HERE BOTH WITH WMO
AND WITH FRIENDLY MISSIONS. I FEEL OBLIGED TO
ADD THAT I SHARE WITH THE DEPARTMENT ITS INABILITY
TO UNDERSTAND THE SECRETARIAT'S ACTIONS IN THIS
SERIOUS MATTER, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE FACT
THAT DIMINUTION OF POSITIVE U.S. INTEREST IN WMO
FOR WHATEVER REASON WILL HAVE A FAR MORE DETERIOUS
EFFECT ON ITS ACTIVITIES THAN ON OURS. DALE

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